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#4

I HEART SKULLCRUSHER



I HEART SKULL-CRUSHER!

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
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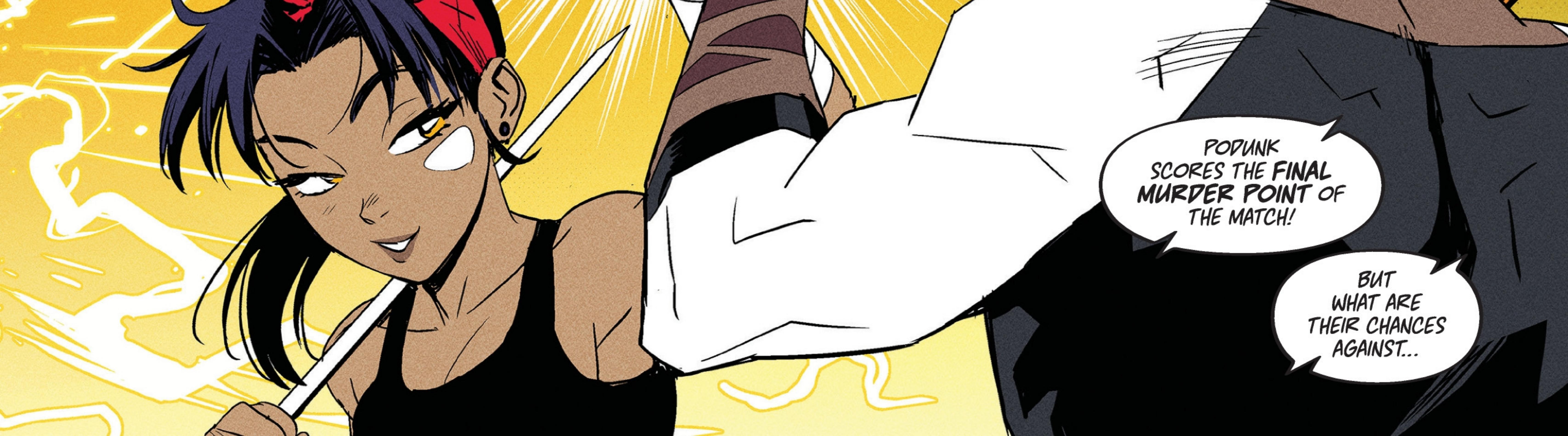
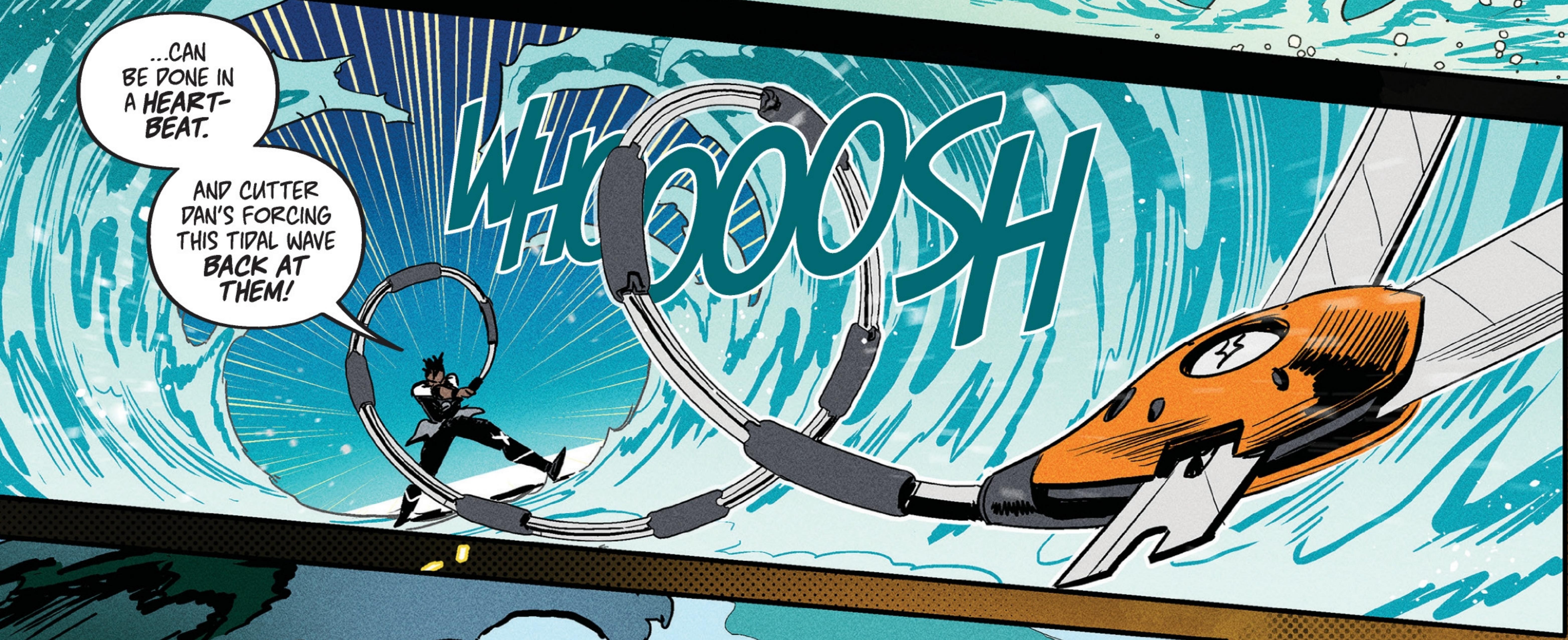
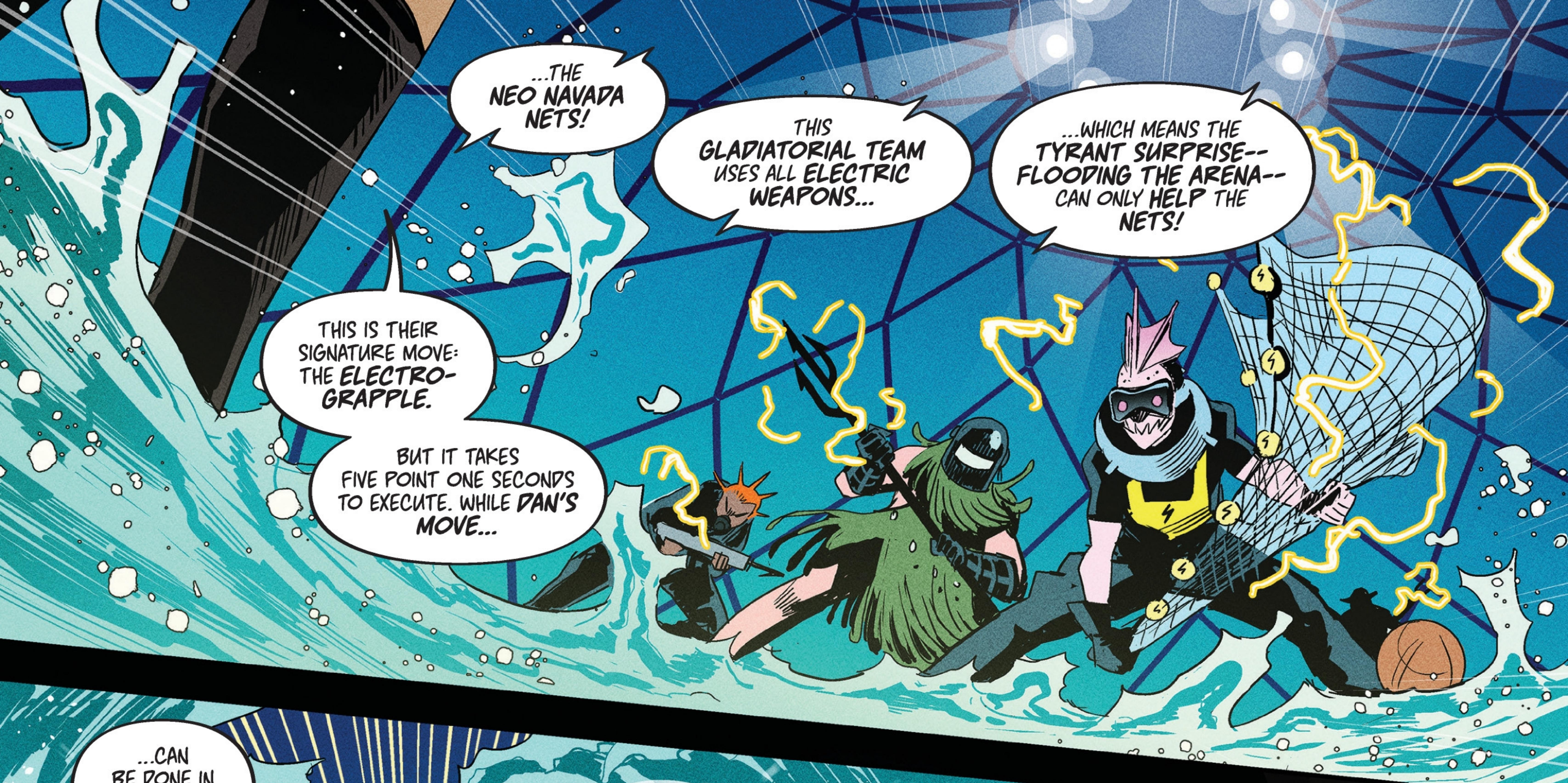
WELCOME
BACK TO

QUEENBROS NATIONAL SPRING TOURNAMENT

GROUP
A

WE'VE MADE
IT THROUGH THE
FIRST ROUND, BUT NOW
IT'S TIME FOR PODUNK
LIL' TEAM TO
FACE...





BE
OR
BE
HOMEB

...THE
BOMBERS!

THINK
ON YOUR
SINS...

...AND REPENT
WITH YOUR
LIFE!

IT'S
NOT LOOKING
GOOD FOR
PODUNK!

BOM Boom Boom Boom

ESPECIALLY
SINCE THE ACID RAIN
TYRANT SURPRISE HAS
LEFT ONLY PODUNK
WOUNDED!

CIRCLE
TWIN...USE THE
FORCE...OF THE
BLASTS...

HOLY
BAD WEEK!
THE DARTS ARE BEING
PROPELLED BY THE
EXPLOSION...

5/5

I
GOT YOU,
TRINI!! TAKE
THAT!

...AND PODUNK
WINS WITH A FIVE-
POINT MURDER
KNOCKOUT!

YAY...CIRCLE!
HEY, WHAT'S
YOUR...REAL
NAME?

NOPE!

"MOM, DAD. WHAT IS THIS FEELING?"



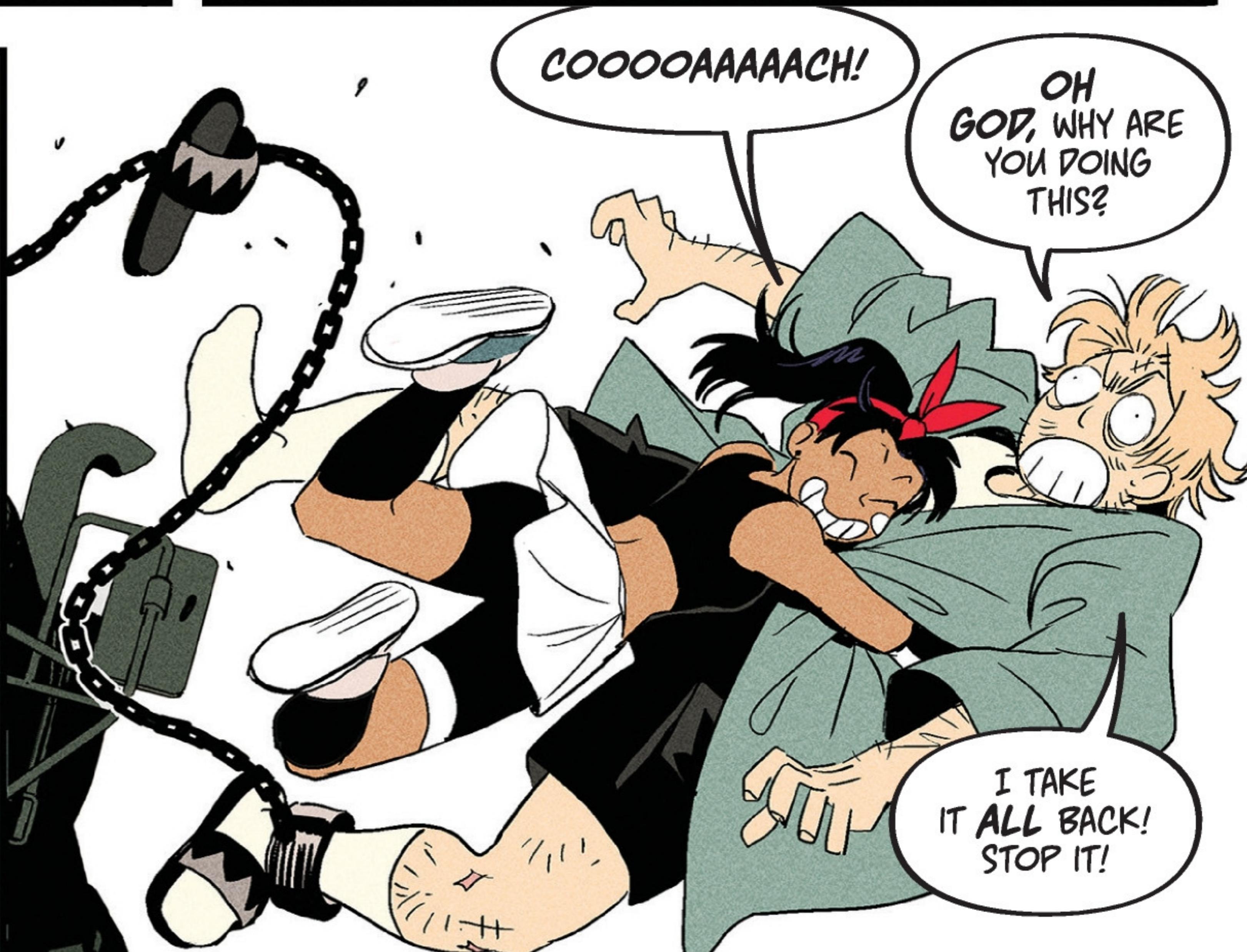
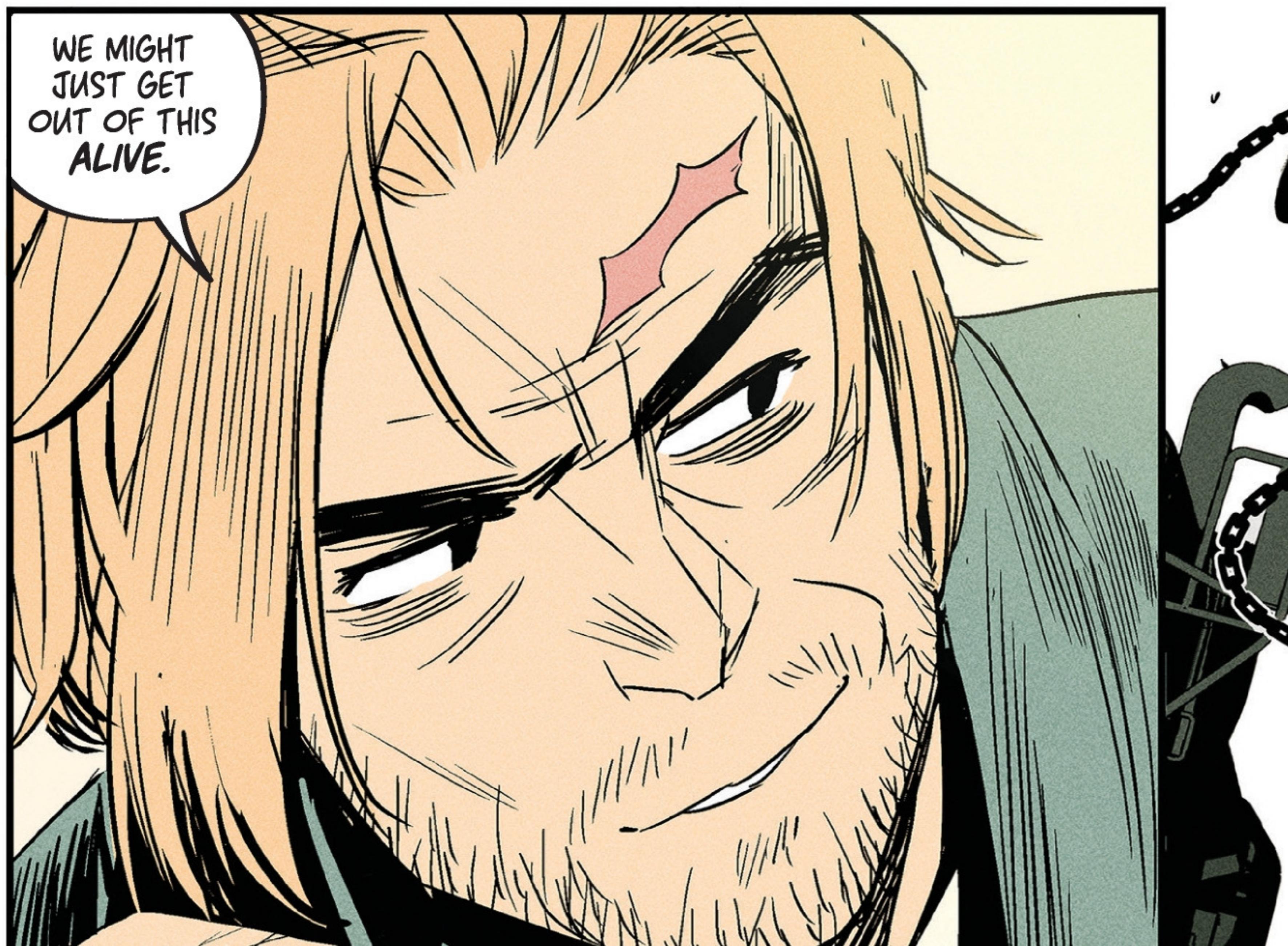
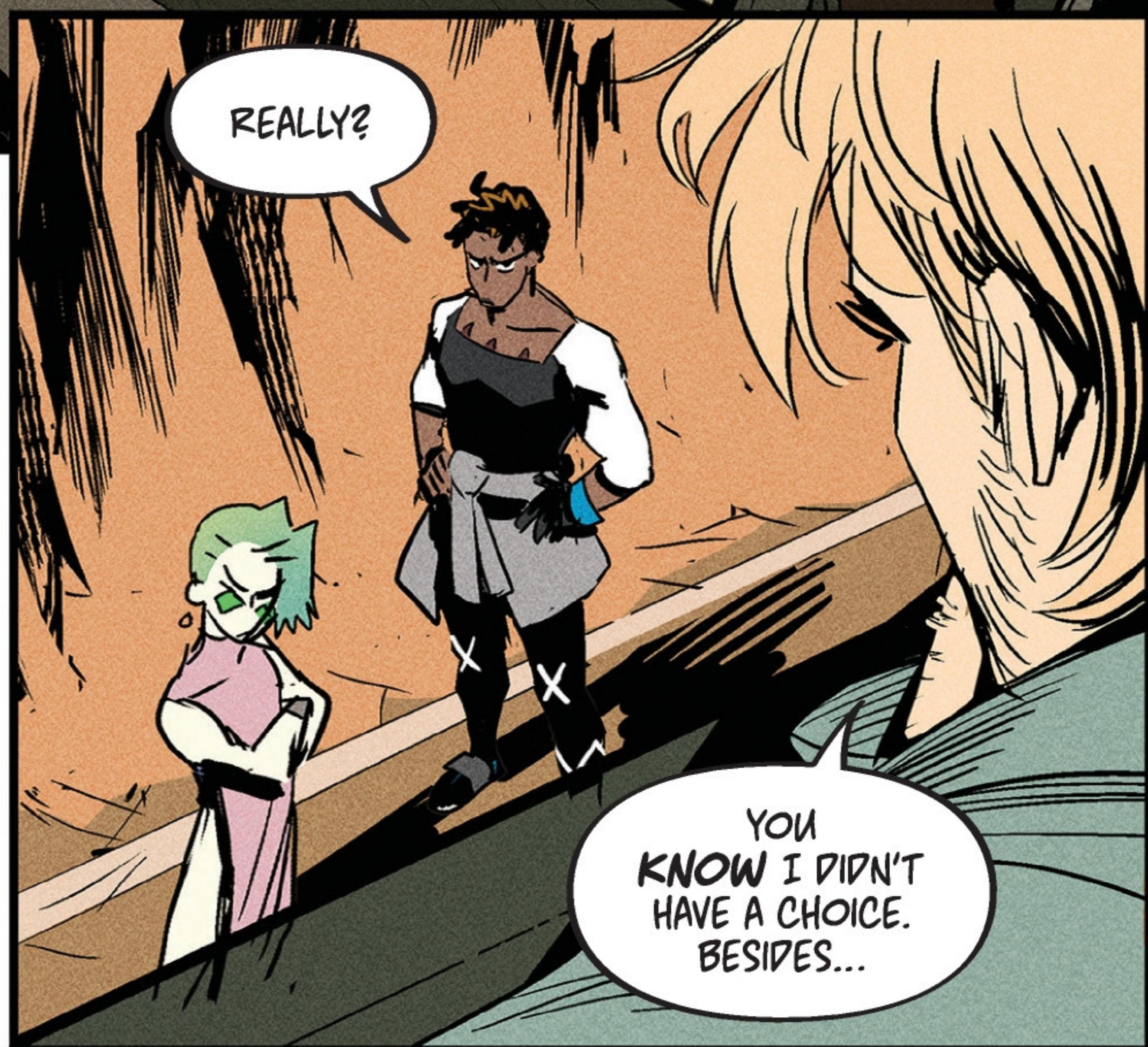
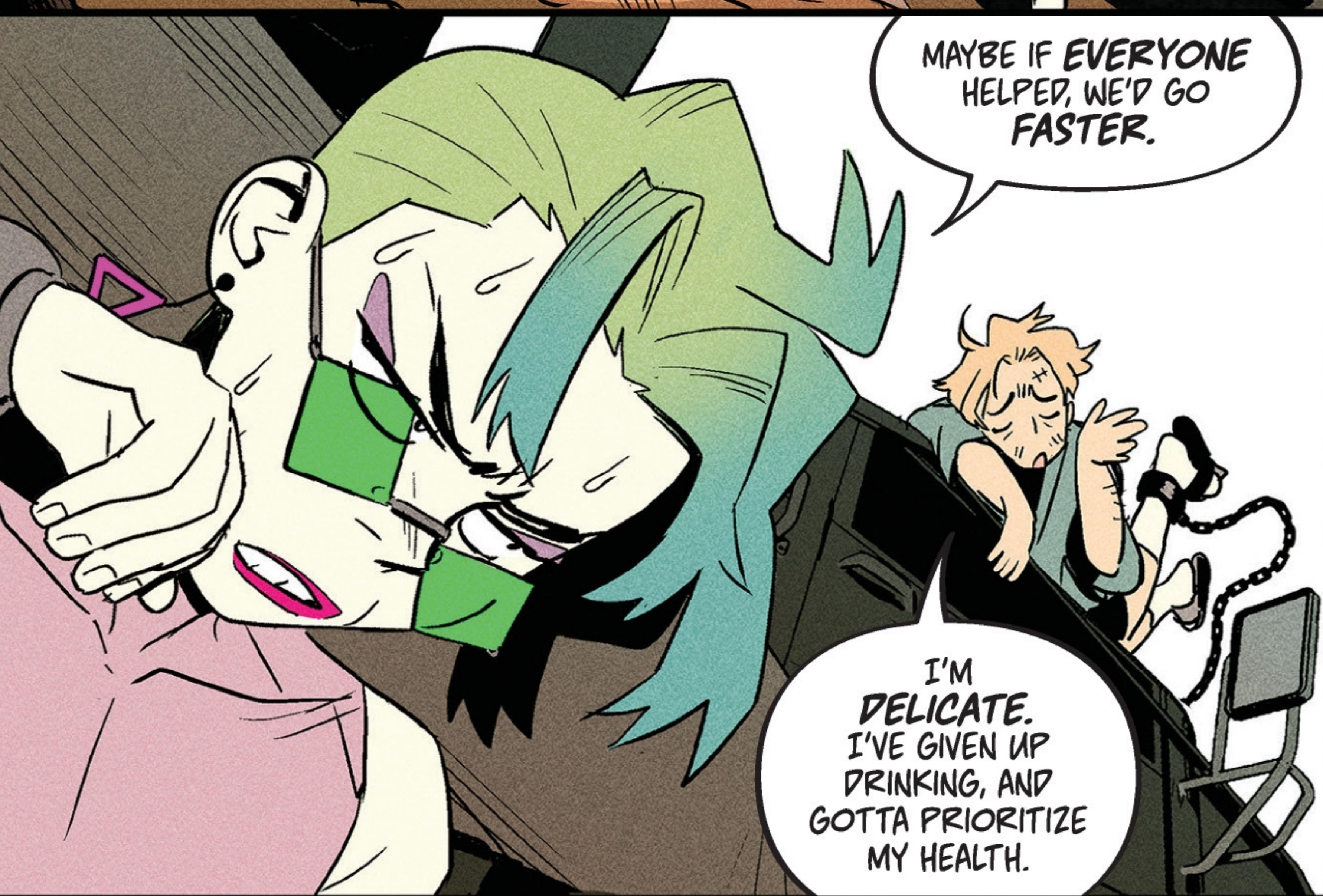
"TO FINALLY ACHIEVING
MY LIFELONG GOAL."

"THAT'S GOTTA
BE IT...RIGHT?"

TOMORROW
IS THE FINALS MATCH.
WHOEVER WINS WILL GET TO
JOIN SKULL-CRUSHER'S
TEAM.

WHICH MEANS
SKULL-CRUSHER
WILL BE THERE!

PUSH
HARDER!



GROUP HUG! COME ON, DAN!

UH. WHAT? NO.
N-NUMBER ONE
PLAYERS DON'T
GROUP HUG.

LET'S
JUST GET
TO WHATEVER
TERRIBLE
TOWN FINALS
ARE IN...

LOOKS
LIKE WE'RE...
HERE...

WHOA.
WHAT IS
THAT?

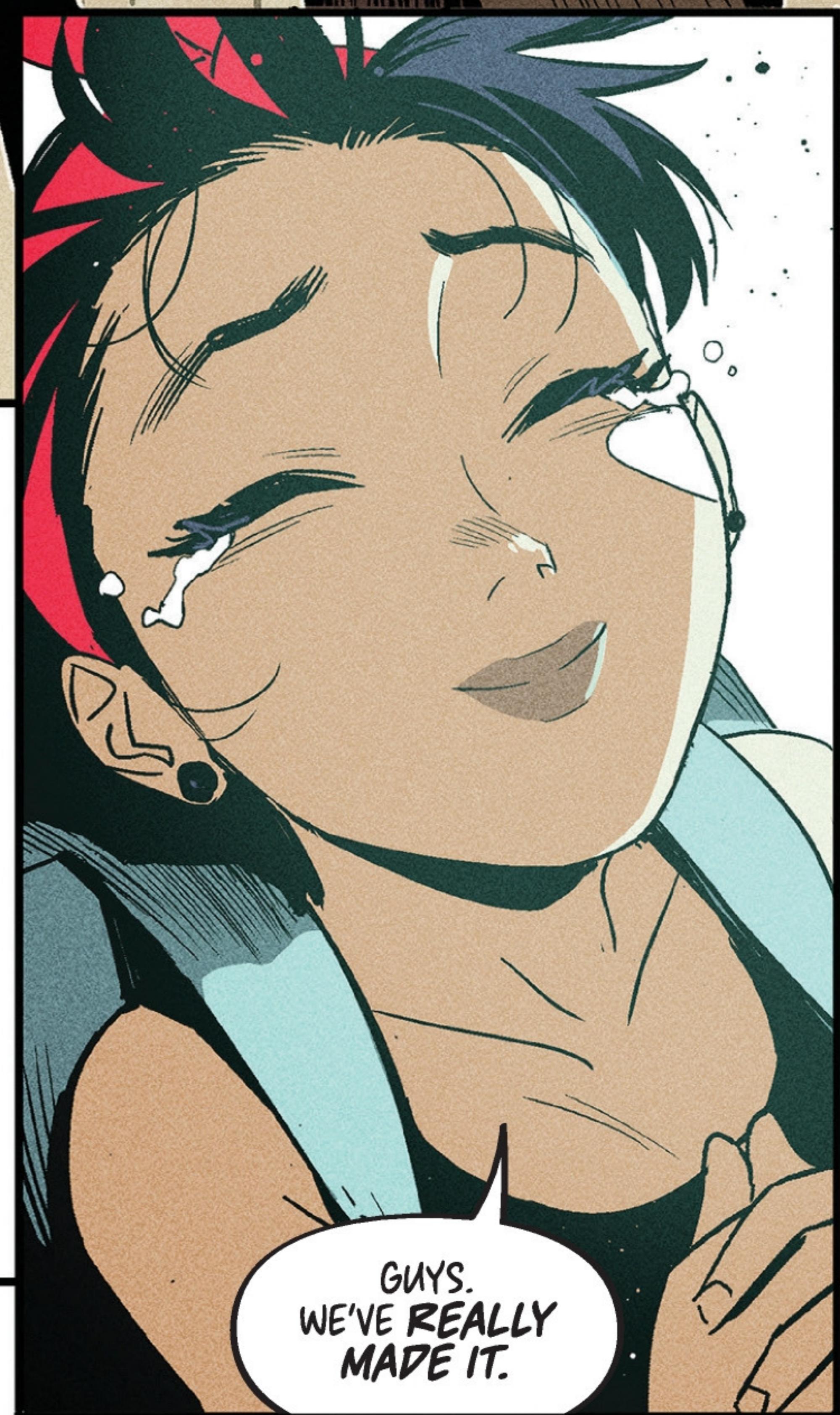
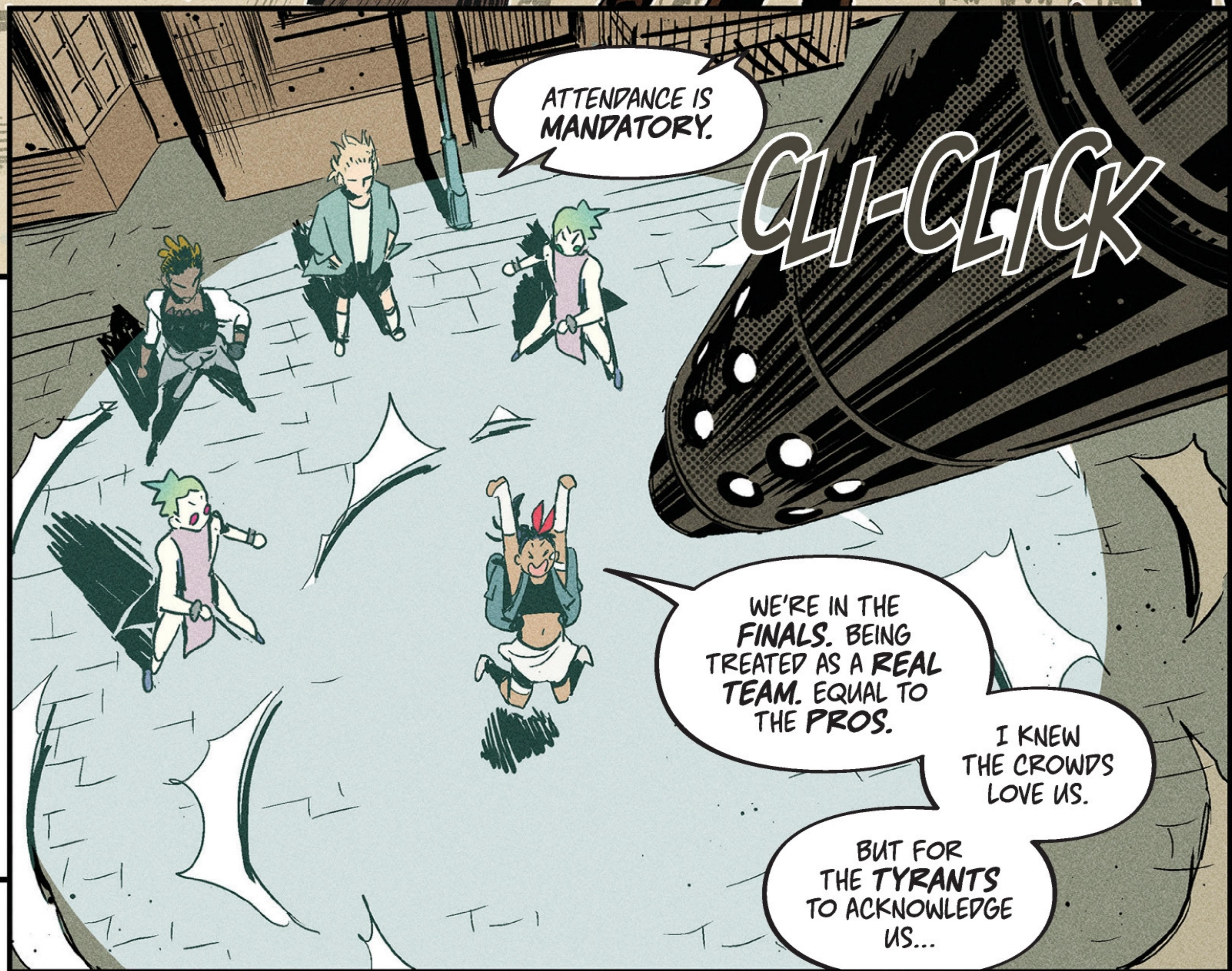
A
LAKE. YOU'RE
LOOKING AT A
LAKE.

WELCOME
TO CRATER
TOWN.

UHHHH...



...AND BY THAT I MEAN YOU ARE INVITED BY OUR BELOVED TYRANTS TO THE FINALIST DINNER!



SIX HOURS
LATER. THE
FINALIST
DINNER.

COME ON.
WHERE IS
EVERYONE?

FINALLY!

T-TRINI...?

GREAT
NEWS!

IT'S US
INSTEAD!

WHERE'S
TRINI?

OHHHH,
WHERE'S
TRINI?

A-AND
COACH.
COACH,
TOO!

TRINI'S
PROBABLY BEEN
ARRESTED
FOR TRYING TO
STALK SKULL-
CRUSHER.

THIS IS
ANTI-MUTANT
BEAR-MAN
SENTIMENT!

IT'S JUST
A BEAR!

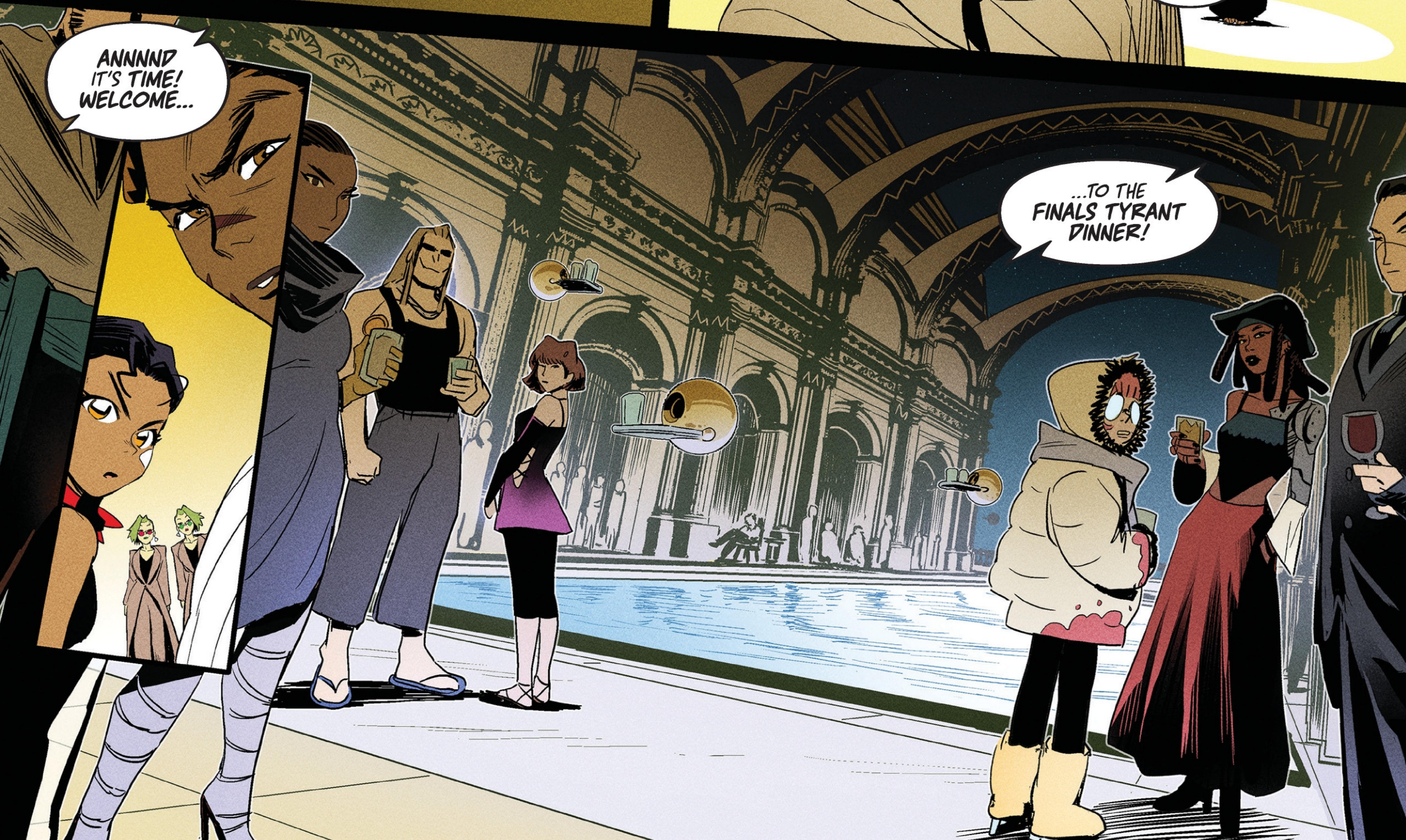
AND COACH
IS PROTESTING
BECAUSE THEY
WON'T LET
DAVID IN.

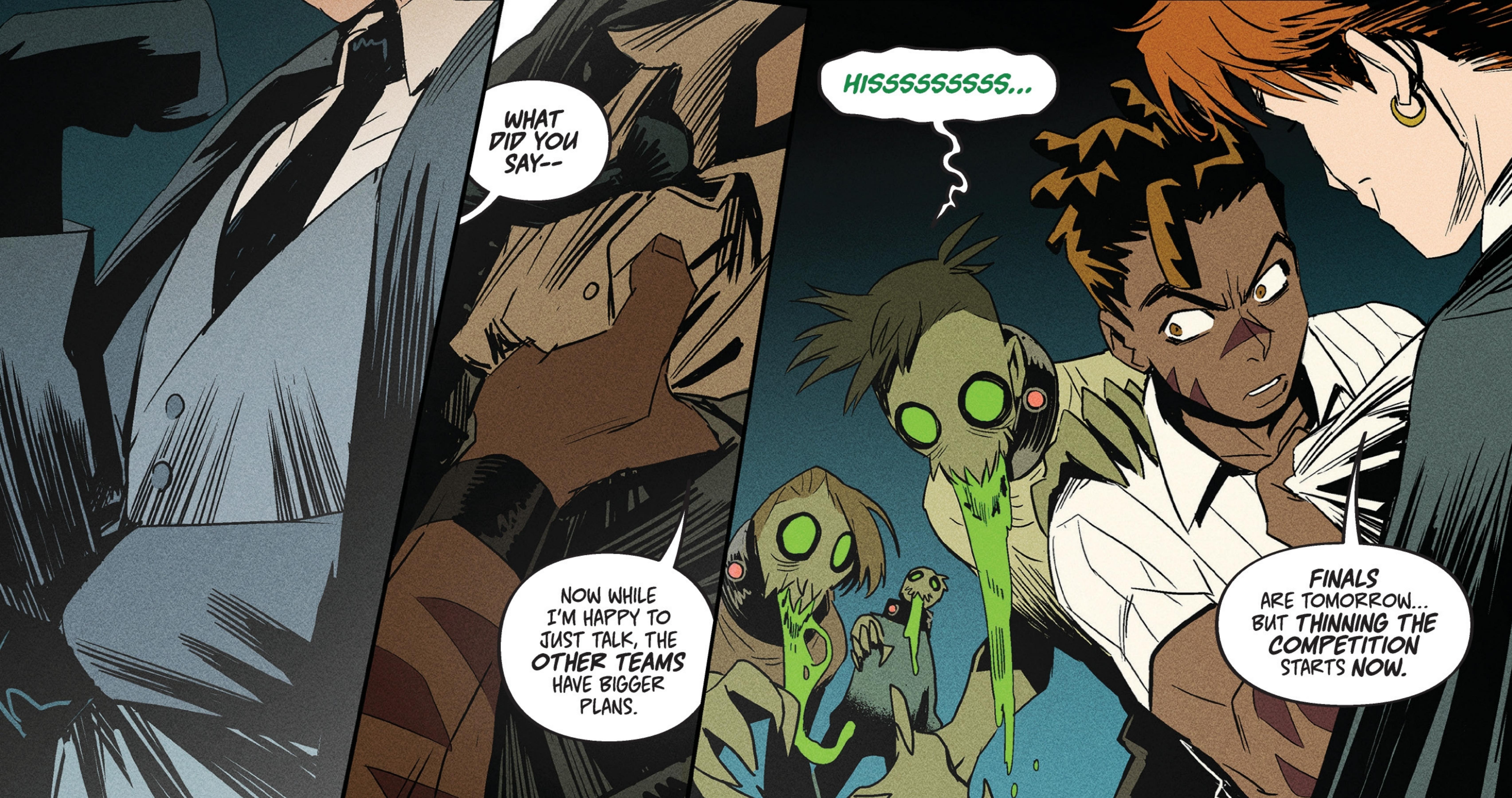
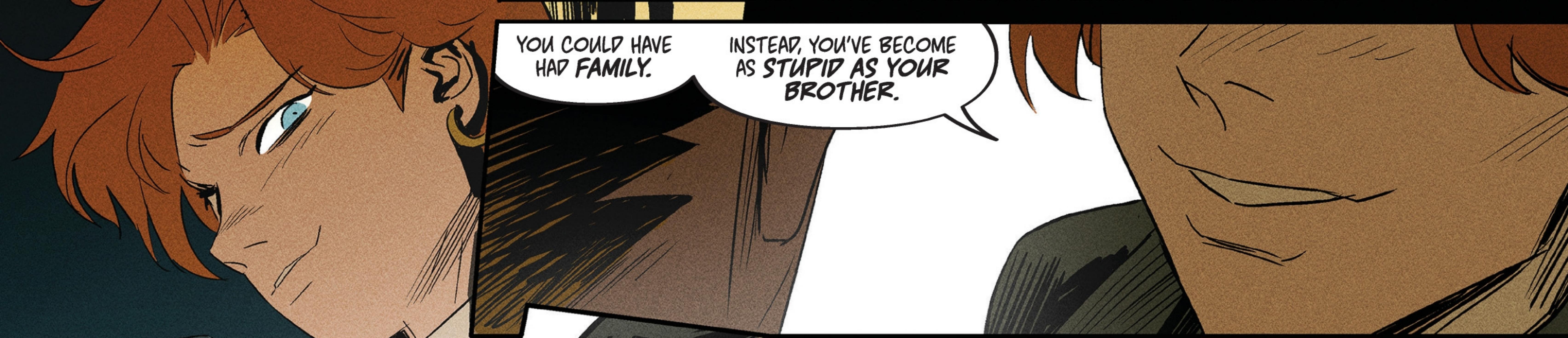
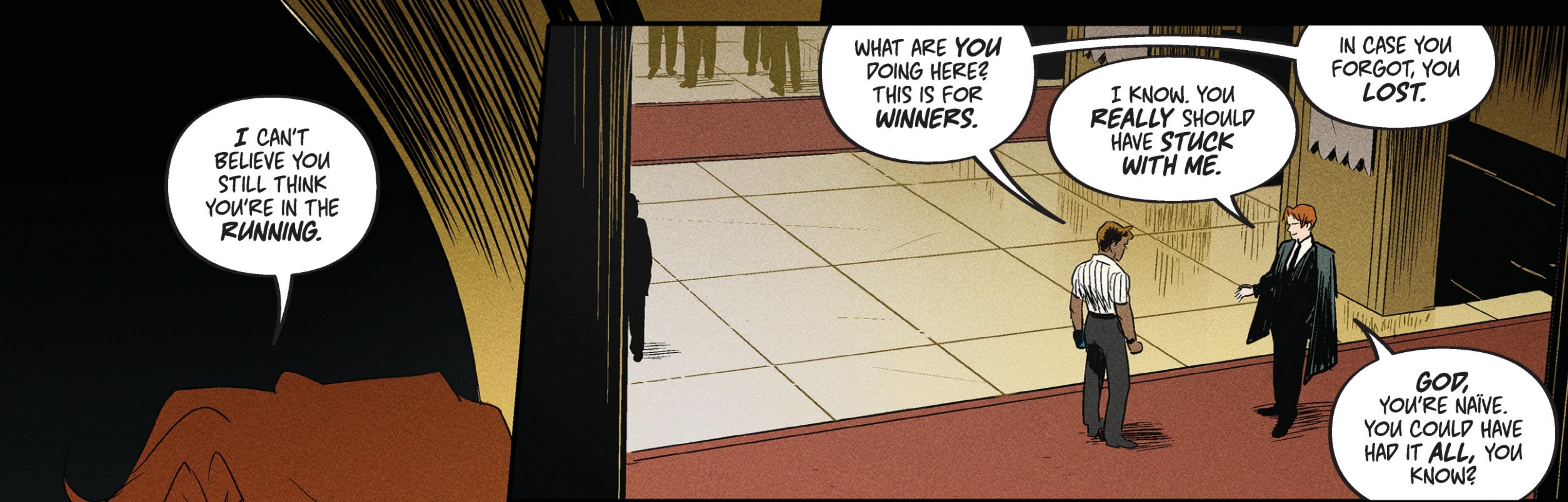
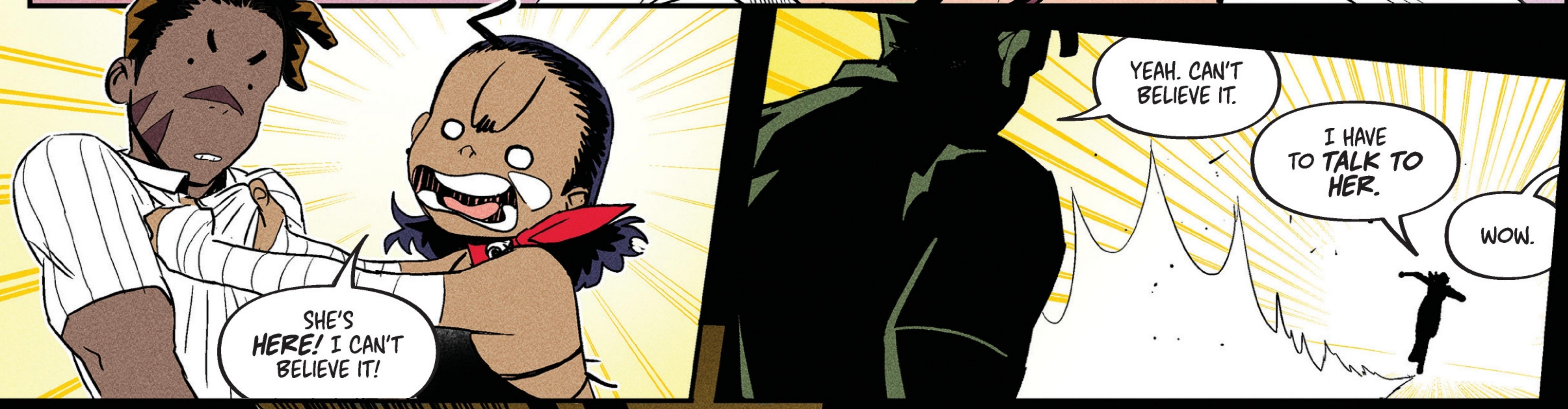
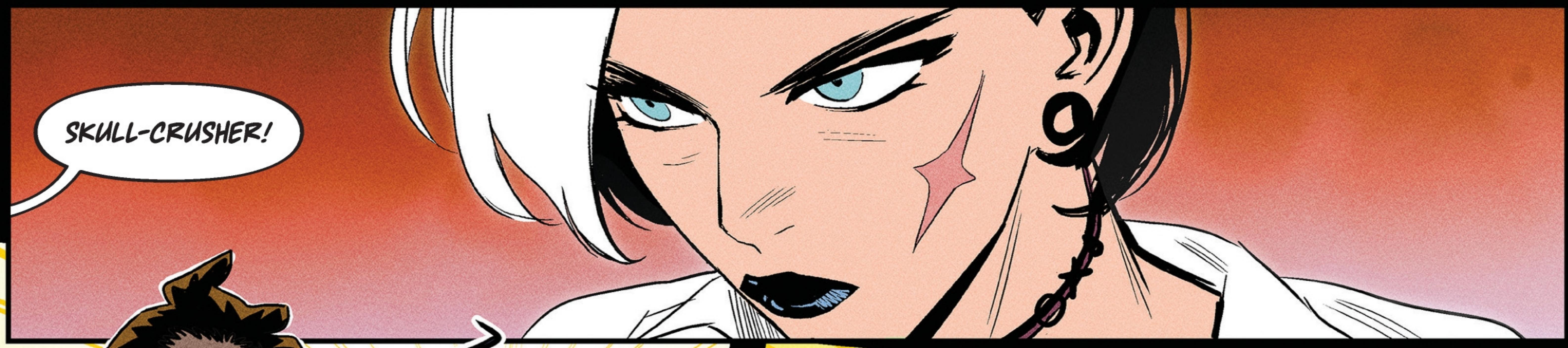
NOW HERE'S THE PLAN. WE'VE
ROBBED TYRANTS BEFORE.
PICK A MARK...

KNOCK 'EM
OUT...

...AND
PROFIT.

NO!





"IT'S HER. THREE FEET
IN FRONT OF YOU."

"YOU CAN DO THIS. YOU
JUST NEED TO COME OFF
LIKE A COOL, PRO
PLAYER."

"TELL HER: I CHANGED
MY ENTIRE LIFE BECAUSE
OF YOU, AND NOW I WANT
TO BE BY YOUR SIDE
FOREVER."

"THAT'S GOOD!
VERY COOL!"



"I'M SO CLOSE..."

Aww, Trini
Wastelander!

Congratulations
on getting
this far!

I-I'M
SORRY, I'M
TRYING
TO--

Be the
talk of the
season? Because
that's what you
are, silly!

You mean
the pool?
HAHAHAH!

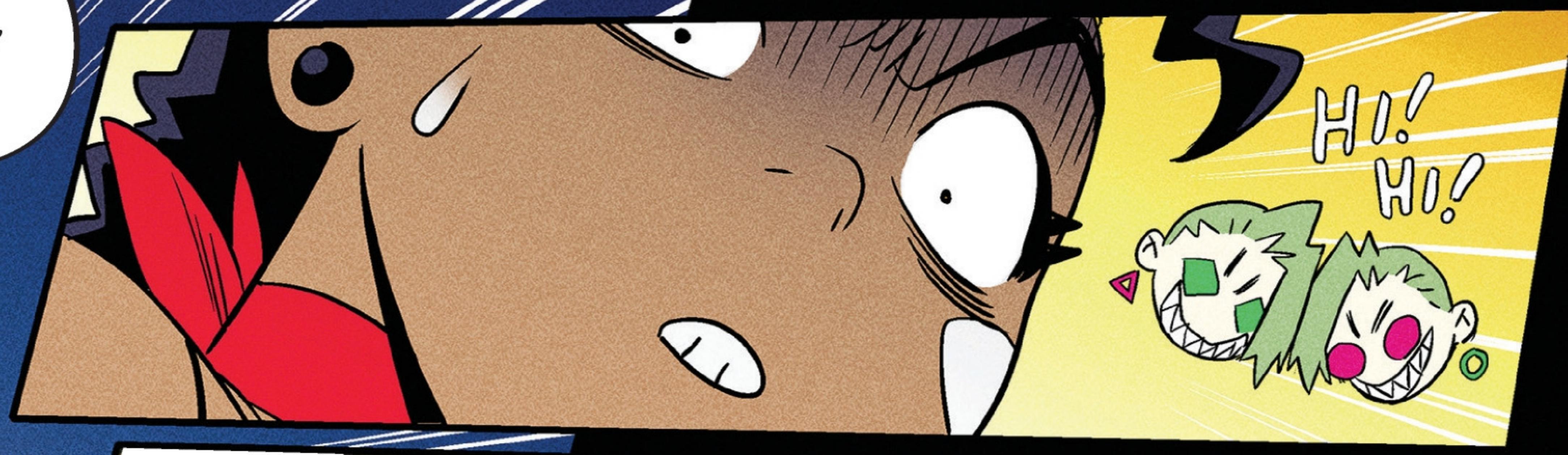
next, you'll
tell me you don't
know about
ice!

UH...

I'M TRYING
TO GET AROUND THIS
SMALL LAKE--

Awww. It's
alright. Just
be a good
girl...

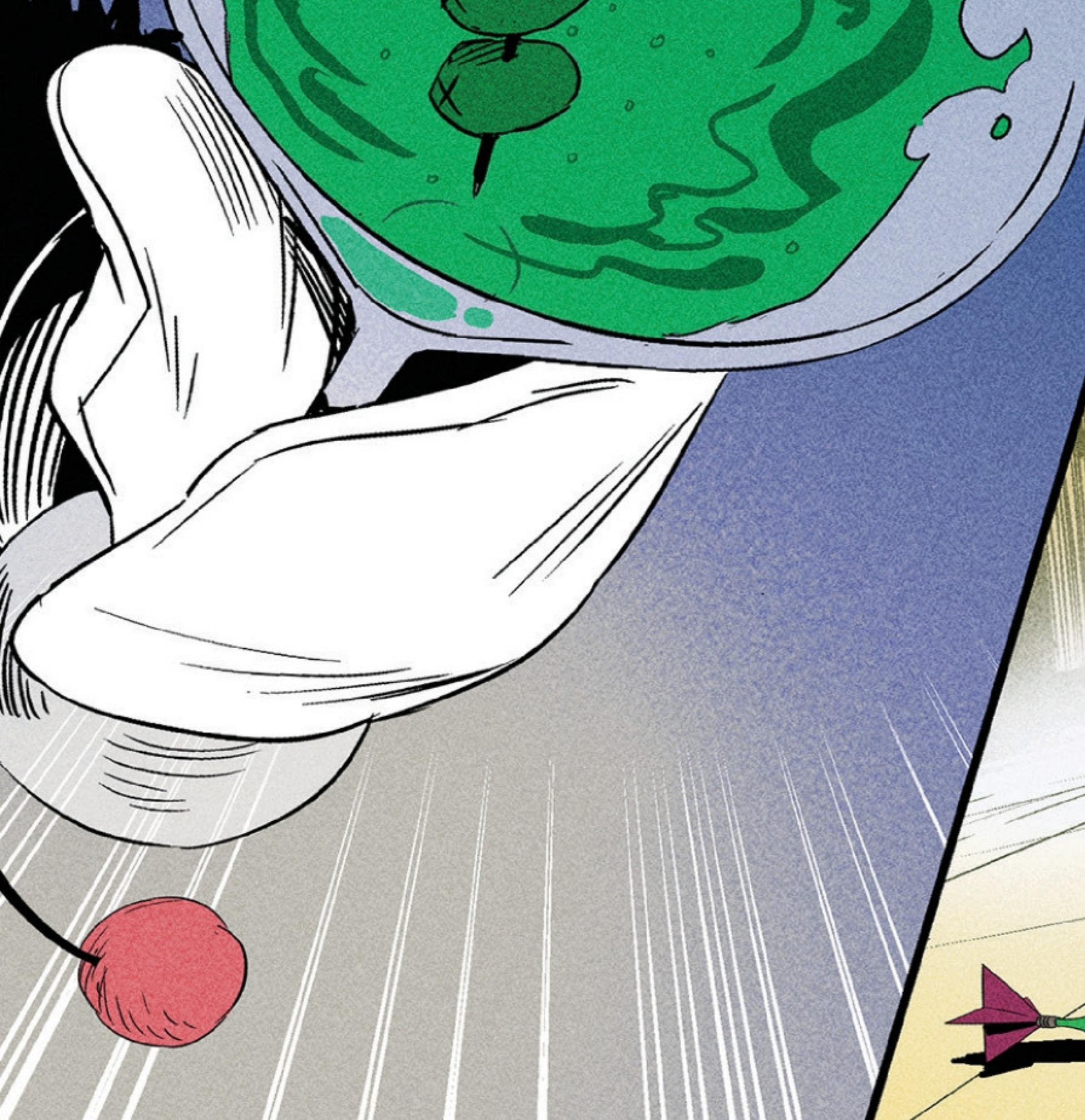
...and
drink
up.



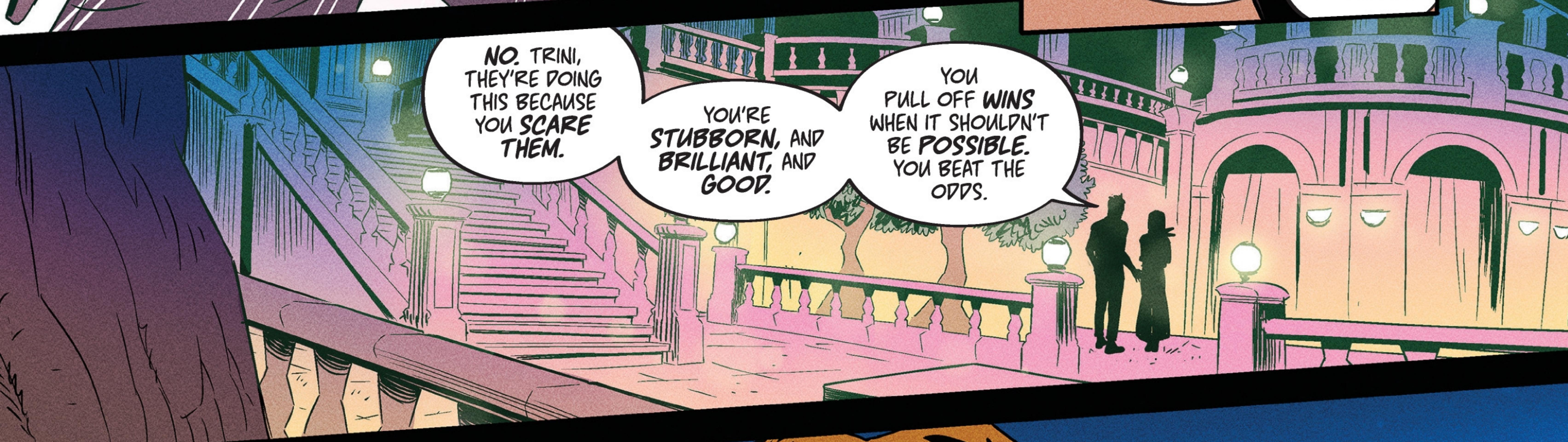
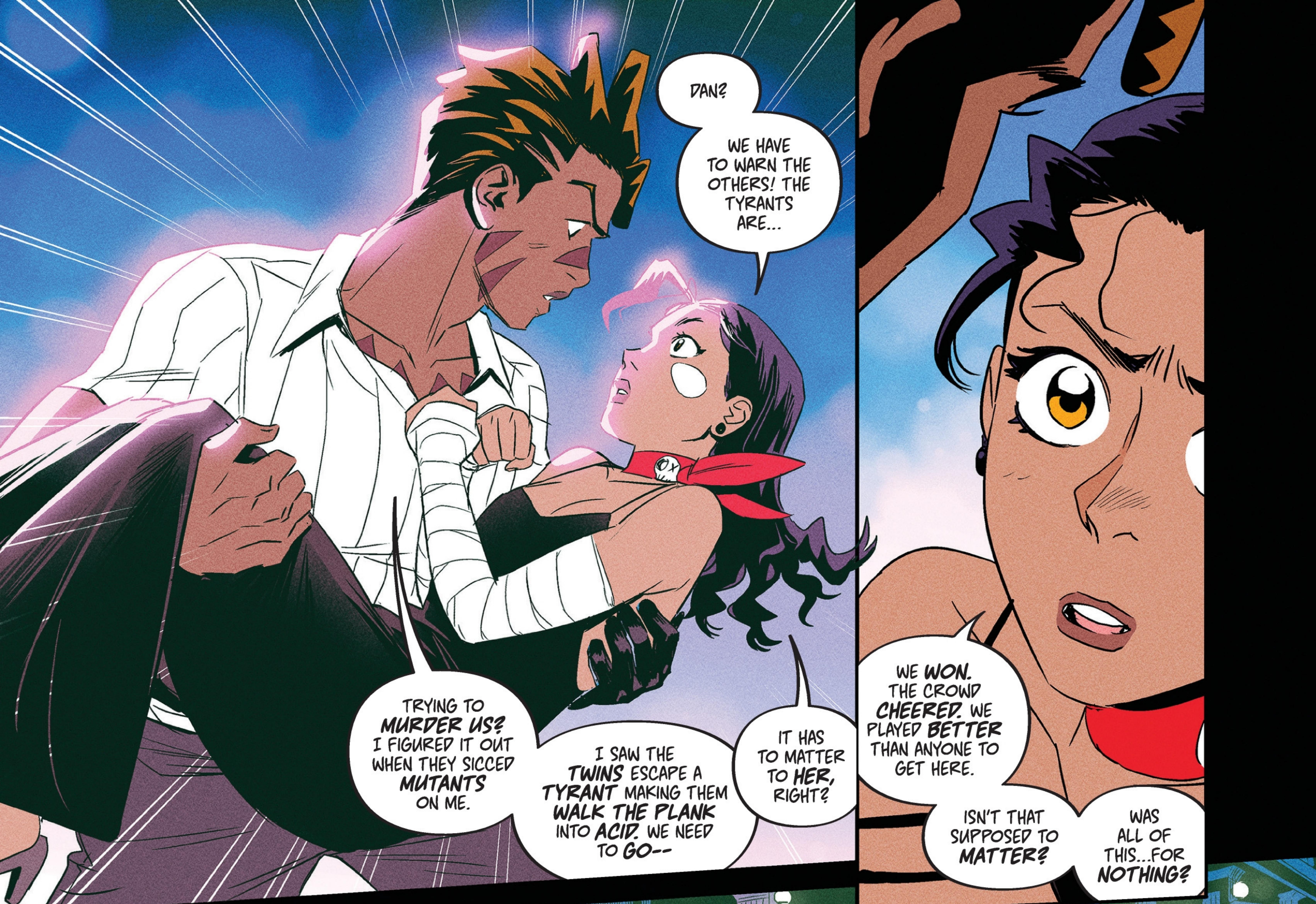
oh! silly
me...

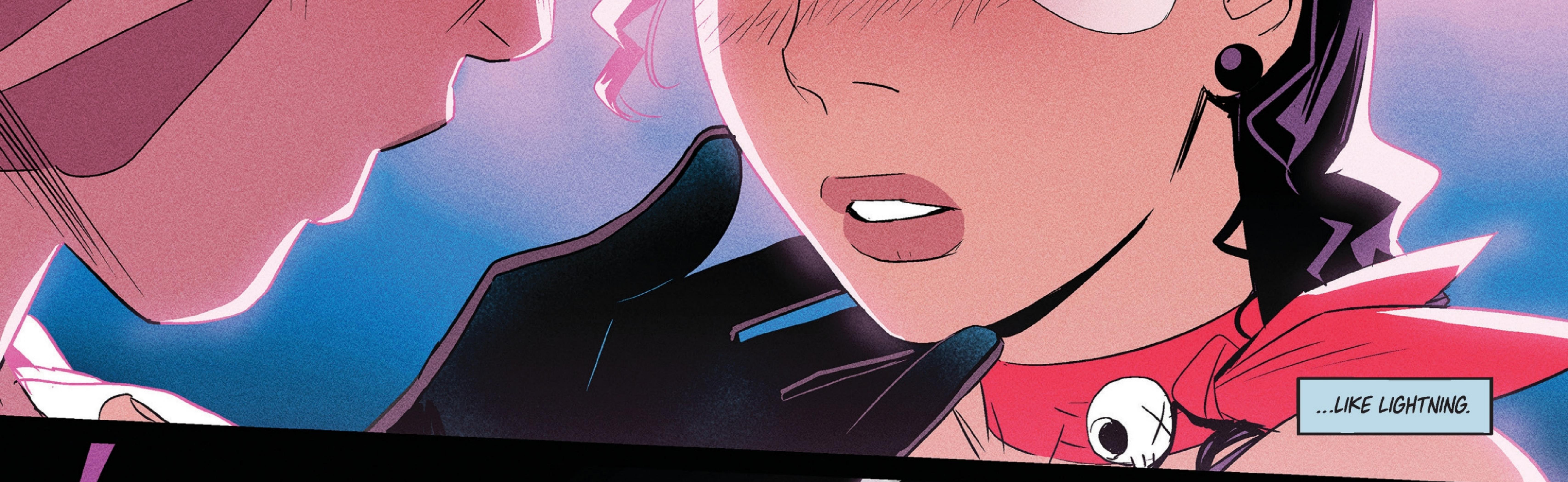
...I didn't think hicks
would recognize nuclear
waste.

CRASH
HUMPHSS

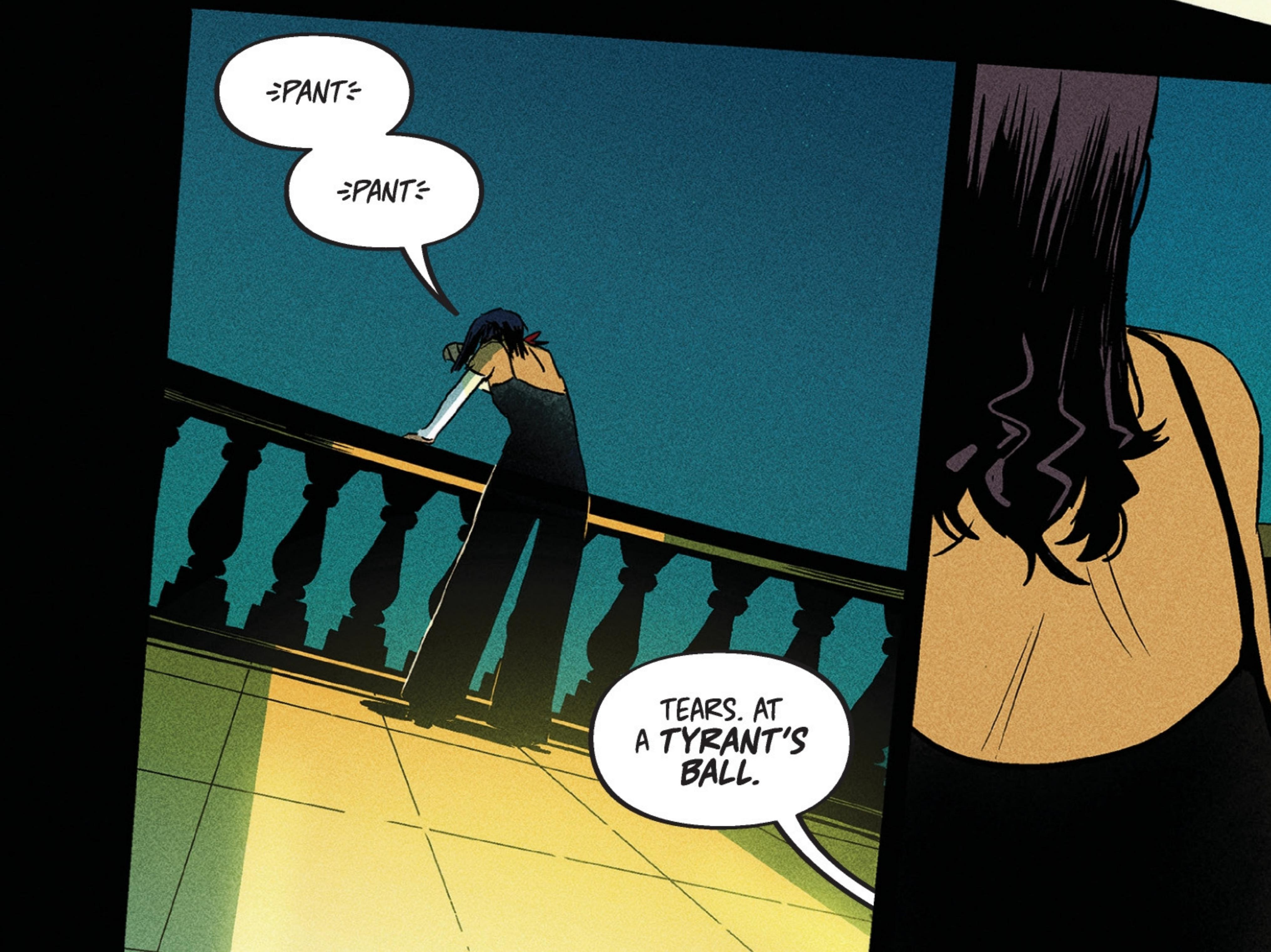








...LIKE LIGHTNING.



TEARS. AT
A TYRANT'S
BALL.

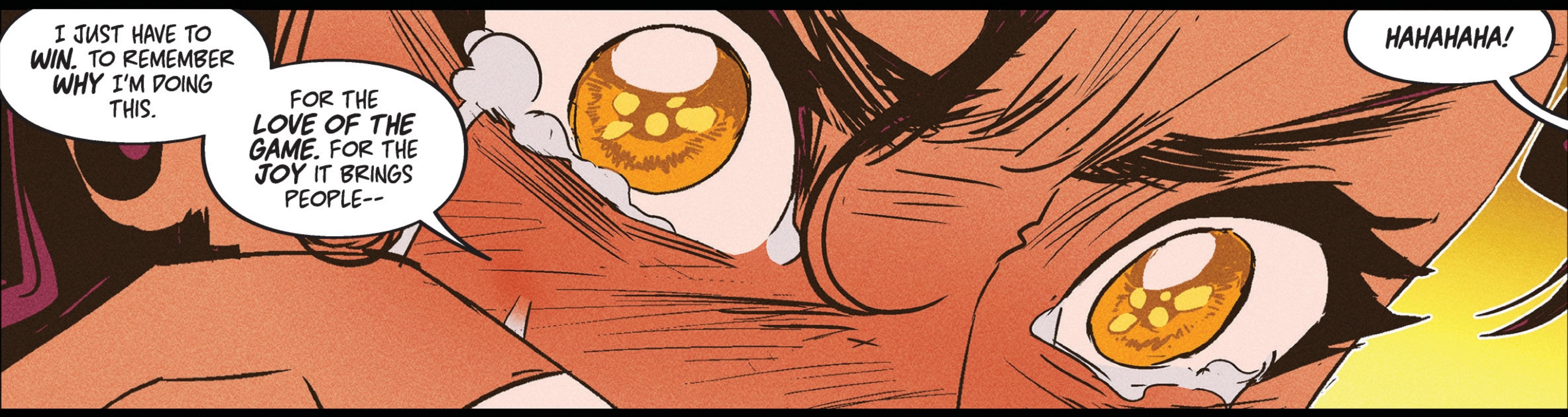




I'M JUST...

I HAVE A DREAM. IT WAS SIMPLE WHEN IT WAS JUST ME.

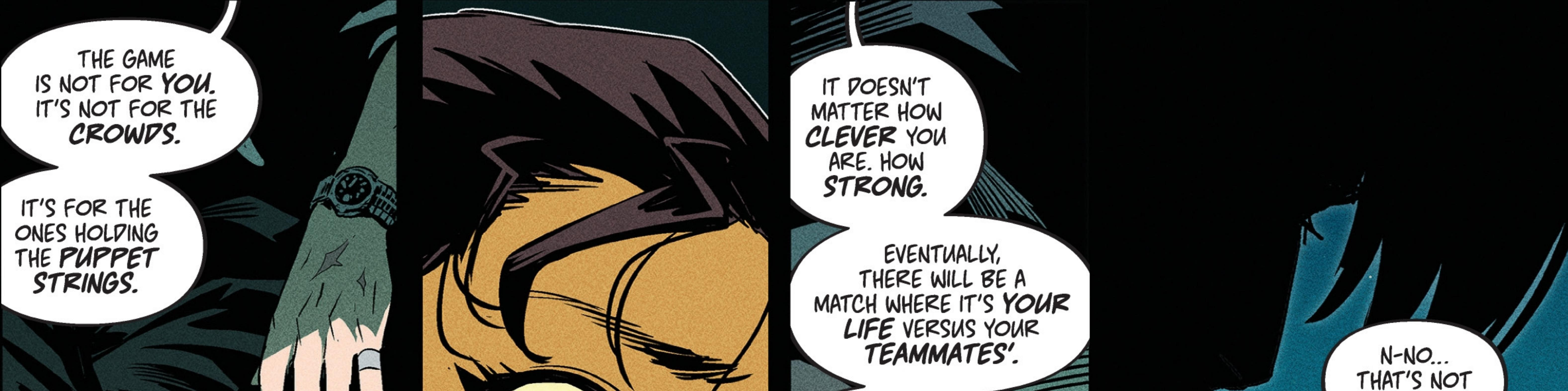
BUT THEN THINGS GOT COMPLICATED...



I JUST HAVE TO WIN. TO REMEMBER WHY I'M DOING THIS.

FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME. FOR THE JOY IT BRINGS PEOPLE--

HAHAHAHA!



THE GAME IS NOT FOR YOU. IT'S NOT FOR THE CROWDS.

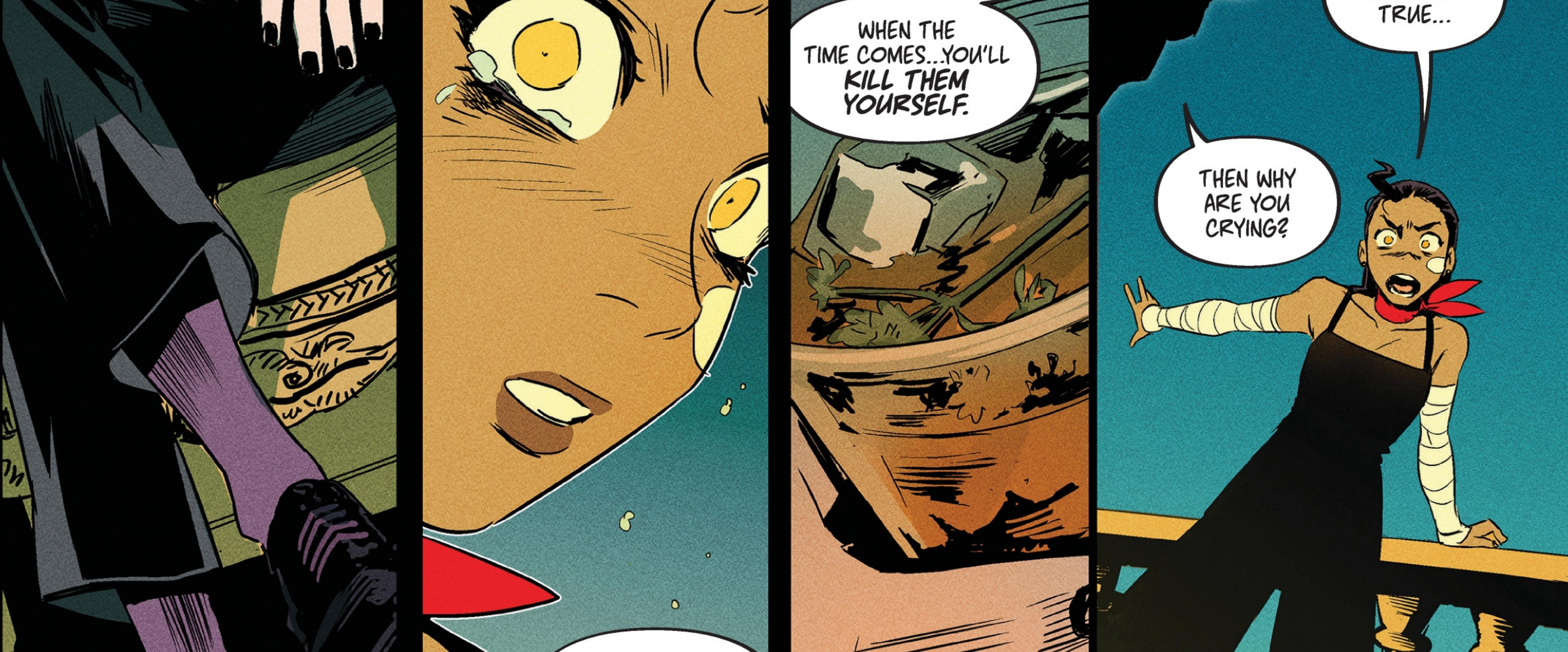
IT'S FOR THE ONES HOLDING THE PUPPET STRINGS.

IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW CLEVER YOU ARE. HOW STRONG.

EVENTUALLY, THERE WILL BE A MATCH WHERE IT'S YOUR LIFE VERSUS YOUR TEAMMATES'.

WHEN THE TIME COMES...YOU'LL KILL THEM YOURSELF.

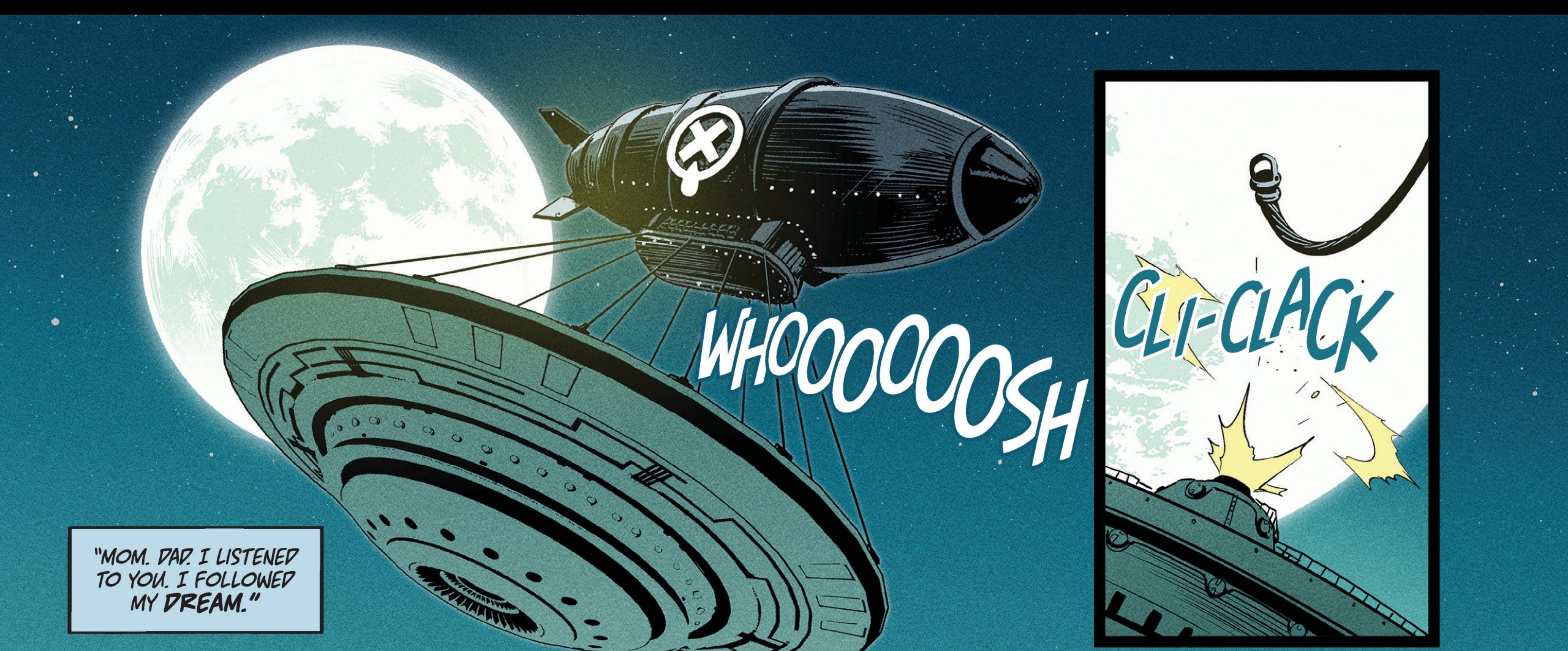
N-NO... THAT'S NOT TRUE...



THEN WHY ARE YOU CRYING?

FOR THEM TO LAUGH AND JOCKEY FOR POWER.

TO BET HOW FAST PEOPLE WILL TURN ON EACH OTHER.



"IS THIS HOW DREAMS
ARE SUPPOSED TO GO?"

WHAM

"THIS DOESN'T FEEL
LIKE WINNING."

IT'S THE
MOMENT YOU'VE
BEEN WAITING
FOR.

BUT THIS
WOULDN'T BE
THE BEAUTIFUL,
BLOODY GAME
IF WE STUCK
TO THE SAME
ROUTINE!

THE FIVE
FINAL TEAMS
ARE HERE TO
COMPETE.

QUEEN
MOB!

I GIVE YOU
THE ARCHITECT
OF TODAY'S LAST
MATCH.

YOUR
LOVELY
OPPRESSOR
AND MINE...

AMERICAN
CITIZENS OF THE
WASTE...

...BOY,
DO I HAVE A
FINALE FOR
YOU!

INSTEAD OF
BORING ONE-ON-ONE
MATCHES, I AM GIVING YOU
THE WORLD'S LARGEST
ARENA...

FOR A
BATTLE
ROYALE!

MY TYRANTS HAVE
FAILED TO GIVE ME A TYRANT
SURPRISE THAT TRULY
AMUSES ME.

WHICH IS WHY I GAVE
THE TASK OF COMING UP
WITH TODAY'S TYRANT
SURPRISE TO...

MY SON
AND HEIR.

HE CAN'T
BE. SHE WOULD
HAVE TOLD ME
IF HE WAS...
NO.

IS THAT
WHAT HE
MEANT?

DAN?

AHHH!

SIBLING!

YOU HEARD
THE DREAD
OVERLADY!

LET THE
BLOODBATH
BEGIN!



You read that right. Trini must go head-to-head with her IDOL... who is trying to KILL HER! Don't miss our DEADLY FINALE as the first arc comes to a bloody end in the next issue of **I HEART SKULL-CRUSHER!**

I HEART SKULL-CRUSHER! #5
ON SALE JULY 2024

